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FRANK L. HOOFS.....MANAGER

SATURDAY.....NOVEMBER 25, 1905

Character Of Pobiedonostieff

Pobiedonostieff has been one of the strong characters in late Russian history. The following is an estimate of his character.

The Procurator of the Russian Holy Synod, Constantine Pobiedonostieff, resigned on October 31, declaring that it was impossible for him to retain office under representative institutions. He has been for more than a generation the evil genius of Russia, and in spite of his advanced age, for he is now seventy-eight, he was the most formidable obstacle to progress in the empire, the one element in the new government that must have inspired distrust in the sincerity of the Czar's purpose. It was his policy that led to the assassination of Alexander II., and it was he who, as the tutor of Alexander III., so clouded his mind as to make him a self-tormented victim of terror till his early death. His reactionary and repressive counsels have more than once blocked the good intentions of Nicholas II. Born in Moscow in 1827, the son of a university professor, he was educated in the government institution there, and later made a teacher in it. He became a member of the Imperial Council in 1872, and Procurator-General in 1880. Already in 1881 he had attained sufficient influence to block Melnikoff's attempt to make the Council of State more representative of the popular will. It was the recall of the Czar's approval of Melnikoff's plan that led to Alexander's assassination, unless, indeed, as some whisper, it was the reactionaries themselves who killed the Czar because he refused to recall it. In 1902, and again in 1904, Pobiedonostieff nipped projects of reform. No one can read the story of his life without feeling a certain admiration for the stern steadfastness of purpose and absolute conviction of the righteousness of his purpose that has characterized his career. Since Metternich no statesman of reaction has approached his stature, and Metternich did not equal him in the extent of evil wrought with good intent.

Mobility Of The Electorate

A most expressive term for a condition or a phenomenon which has been growing more frequent and more impressive in the past few years has been supplied by Bradstreet's, one of the leading journals of finance and public economy. The phenomenon is the growing readiness of voters to abandon party associations for the purpose of securing reforms or rebuking abuses. Bradstreet's calls it "the mobility of the electorate," certainly an apt and expressive description. The occasion on which it seems to have been first used seems little less striking than the term itself. It was in a brief leading article just prior to the New York election, and in a sense, foreshadowing the result. Speaking of the mayoralty election in New York, then only a few days off, the originator of this phrase said:

"Recent municipal campaigns have carried with them one very significant lesson, namely, that, speaking generally, the mobility of the electorate has been underestimated by party managers. That has been illustrated more than once within the last dozen years in the city of New York, and it is now recognized that it is far more difficult to forecast the result of an election, or even the actual alignment of the voting citizens, than it was. Some weeks ago there seemed to be but one mayoralty candidate who had any prospect of success in New York, and it was difficult to secure a man willing to run on the usual opposition ticket. Now, not only has such a candidate been found, but entirely new elements have been injected into the campaign by the candidacy of a man running for the mayoralty on the platform of municipal ownership—a candidacy which has, according to surface indications, eaten largely into the strength of the old parties—and by the surprising canvass made by the present incumbent of the office of district-attorney, who, not being named by any party, is appealing for popular support upon his record in office. What the outcome will be remains to be seen; what is apparent is that the ties of party allegiance sit more lightly on the average citizen than they did, and that this feeling of independence is being more widely manifested than at any prior time for many years."

A Big Bonus From Sake

Much has been said locally about the "sake cases," and the fact is generally known that they involve a good deal of money. A just conception of what they really mean, however, is not general in this community. The interview with Col. Fitch, appearing in this issue, more graphically presents the matter, than almost anything that has been said on the subject.

According to Col. Fitch there is already three-quarters of a million involved, and the arrival of each steamer from the Orient adds to the amount. In other words, as decisions now stand, and as they will stand unless the United States takes an appeal and is successful, the enormous sum of \$750,000 more than was justly due, has been paid by the Hawaii importers of sake into the United States Treasury and it will be repaid from the Treasury upon the final adjustment of the cases. In other words nearly a million dollars will come to this Territory for which no additional expenditure of industry or product will be required. This is a sum almost as large as the amount voted by Congress to pay our fire claims. Coming as it will it will be as completely in the form of a bonus as the fire claims appropriation was, or as an appropriation by Congress for harbor improvement or fortification would be.

Assuming, as the decisions to date justify, that the duty paid is excessive, yet it has been paid. In the usual course of business the importers figured it in as a part of the cost of their imports and sold their goods at a profit based on that cost. If they never got back the excess of duty paid, they would suffer no loss, considered strictly as a part of their trade balances. When they do get it back, it will come like the proverbial "Money from home." It will be a bonus, or like conscience money, or the payment to them of a debt that had long ago been outlawed or barred by bankruptcy proceedings. Not that they will not be justly entitled to it, as they would be in any of the other cases, but the getting of it will involve no additional capital, no additional trade, no additional business effort.

This sum will come into the Territory and be an actual addition of that much to the capital of the Islands, as if some fairy, or some fairy congress sent it hither as a gift, or as if some modern Monte Cristo or some treasure hunting expedition, some successful schooner Herman, landed here with that much bullion from long buried treasure in some distant isle.

Of course, Col. Fitch will have a share of it, and doubtless a good share, and as he is now a resident of Southern California he will doubtless take most of his share with him there. But the great bulk

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of it may be expected to remain here, and soon get started through the usual channels of trade, and so add to the common benefit and the general prosperity to the same extent that an equal gift from any other source would.

When an appropriation of \$400,000 was secured for harbor and other improvements, it was thought and talked of as a great thing for the Territory. When \$100,000 was spent on the entrance to Pearl Harbor, it was considered a great benefit to the community. But in the sake cases three-quarters of a million dollars is coming, which is the equivalent, allowing a net profit of \$15 a ton, to the annual profits of a 40,000-ton plantation.

If all this is so, and who can doubt it, the community owes to Harry J. Johnston, the customs broker who raised the question of the proper classification of sake under the tariff schedules, the importers who risked the expenses of litigation, and Col. Fitch and others who fought it out, some of the same feeling of gratitude which it has ever felt toward Postmaster Pratt who secured the fire claims appropriation from Congress.

The Hilo Tribune says Dr. J. Holland is going to appeal a land proposition to Washington. It is not believed to be likely, however, that the doctor will take anything to Washington.

When Land Commissioner Pratt takes his pen in hand to write a few lines to the Oario Association, he doesn't need any other "Jim the Penman" to help him.

Apropos of what S. M. Ballou says of the conditions since ten years ago when members of the Honolulu Bar regularly attended the terms of the Circuit Court in other circuits, it is also true that the Bar in the outer circuits has been greatly strengthened of late years by the addition of lawyers of ability and attainments. There is not the need that there used to be for the service of Honolulu lawyers. On Kauai, Maui and Hawaii, there are legal practitioners of first-class ability and reputation.

Is it possible that F. M. Hatch has been the victim of a typographical error?

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ror, and that what he wrote to the Boston Transcript was: "In two branches of industry the Japanese easily excel the whites—as carpenters and as laborers," and that the types made him say "as carpenters and as barbers?"

LIFE INSURANCE.

It may be the belief that honesty is the best policy that renders selling any other kind such a difficult matter just now.—The Detroit Free Press.

It might be a good plan to select only bachelors for presidents of the life-insurance companies.—The Washington Post.

No charges are made for looking at the outside of the life-insurance building. Funny that the managers overlooked it.—The Chicago News.

"Hyde will take the witness stand," says a New York paper. That's about the only thing he has not already taken.—The Washington Post.

If the Democrats are wise, they will organize an insurance company to get up funds for the next Presidential campaign.—The Atlanta Journal.

Some of the king grafters of the life insurance graft swear they will never resign. They ought never to be permitted to resign.—The Atlanta Constitution.

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